

S. 2705: A bill to provide for the training of individuals, during a Presidential transition, who the President intends to appoint to certain key positions, to provide for a study and report on improving the financial disclosure process for certain Presidential nominees, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-348).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4733: A bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2001" (Report No. 106-346).

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Government Performance and Results Act of 1993" (Report No. 106-347).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2883. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on piano plates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow allocation of small ethanol producer credit to patrons of cooperative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. 2885. A bill to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAMM (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2886. A bill to provide for retail competition for the sale of electric power, to authorize States to recover transition costs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 2887. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWBACK,

Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. L. CHAFFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 338. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Paul Coverdell, a Senator from the State of Georgia.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. Con. Res. 131. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that lead to the creation of the independent trade union Solidarnose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2883. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on piano plates; to the Committee on Finance.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON PIANO PLATES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation temporarily suspending duties on imports of certain piano plates. This legislation is needed to address a difficult situation facing the domestic piano industry.

A piano plate is an essential part of a piano. It is the iron casting over which the strings are stretched and tuned by pins inserted in the plate. Baldwin Piano & Organ Company, which employs more than 600 workers in the production of pianos in Arkansas and Mississippi, is one of a diminishing number of piano producers in the United States. Piano plates are produced in the United States by a single company, a competitor of Baldwin, whose production is for the most part captively consumed. As such, Baldwin lacks a domestic source for piano plates, other than the surplus production of one of its competitors. Due to

its own demand for plates, Baldwin's competitor cannot meet Baldwin's requirements.

Mr. President the history and recent contraction in the domestic piano industry points to the critical need for this legislation. Indeed, were the production of Baldwin or other domestic producers to be curtailed due to the insufficient availability of domestically-produced piano plates, it is likely that this would engender an increase in foreign piano supply, rather than an increase in market share of other domestic producers. This is evident from the fact that, in the early 1980s, there were 15 domestic piano producers supplying approximately 80 percent of U.S. consumption, whereas now only nine domestic producers remain—servicing approximately half, if not less, of the U.S. market. The domestic piano industry is well aware that foreign production stands ready to fill any gap in domestic supply.

The legislation I am introducing today would temporarily suspend, through the year 2004, the rate of duty applicable to imports of piano plates provided for in subheading 9209.91.80 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Currently, the applicable rate of duty is 4.2 percent ad valorem. If the legislation is approved, the reduction in duty collection is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 per year through 2004.

Given the situation currently facing domestic piano producers, it is unlikely that there will be objection from other domestic manufacturers to the legislation proposed today. In view of the fact that Baldwin must resort to imported plates regardless of the duty rate applicable to such imports, and that no appreciable domestic production of piano plates will be displaced by imports, suspension of the duty rate will have no adverse affect upon the domestic industry. This legislation stands to ensure only that a U.S. piano producer will find a reliable source of supply for a critical component and thus will be better positioned to stand with other domestic producers in providing a secure and stable supply of pianos for the domestic market.

I ask that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2883

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PIANO PLATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new item:

“	9902.92.09	Piano plates (provided for in subheading 9209.91.80)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2004	”.
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